

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-12 and replace with the following:

13. (New) A self-actuated cervical traction device for performing traction on a user's neck comprising,

a headpiece, said headpiece including a first element which is adapted to be placed about the back of the neck of the user,

said headpiece further including a second element which is adapted to secure said first element on the head of the user,

said headpiece first element being generally rectangular and having a front side, a back side, a right side and a left side, said headpiece first element right side provided with a first slot and said headpiece first element left side provided with a second slot,

said headpiece first element back side including a strap affixed thereto, said strap forming a first loop,

said headpiece second element being elongated and having a front side, a back side, a right side and a left side, said front side having padding centrally located thereon, said back side including first hook fasteners on the right distal portion, second hook fasteners on the left distal portion, and loop connectors centrally located opposite said padding,

wherein said headpiece first element is placed about the neck of the user, said headpiece second element is placed on the forehead of the user with the padding lying thereon, said right distal portion is pulled through said first slot and said first hook fasteners are connected to said loop connectors, and further said left distal portion is pulled through said second slot and said second hook fasteners are connected to said loop connectors, thus securing said headpiece to the user,

said first loop including a first connection anchor,

said device further provided with a cord, said cord affixed to said first connection anchor,

a force redirection means, said force redirection means adapted to permit said cord to movably reside thereon,

a second loop, said second loop including a second connection anchor, said cord further affixed to said second connection anchor, whereby

said second loop is placed about the user's feet, the user then extends their legs carefully, causing said cord to pull, creating a pull-force, said force redirection means redirecting said pull-force to said first loop by said first anchor, causing said neck to be pulled by said pull-force through said headpiece in a manner replicating traction.

14. (New) A self-actuated cervical traction device for performing traction on a user's neck as claimed in claim 13 wherein said force redirecting device is a pulley.

15. (New) A self-actuated cervical traction device for performing traction on a user's neck as claimed in claim 14 wherein said pulley includes a U-shaped element connected about said pulleys center, said U-shaped element further having a circular element attached thereto said circular element not affecting the rotation of said pulley.

16. (New) A self-actuated cervical traction device for performing traction on a user's neck as claimed in claim 15 whereby said circular element includes a string securely attached thereto said string being further connected to a ball, whereby said string is sized such that when placed in a shut door, said pulley will be secured thereto.

17. (New) A self-actuated cervical traction device for performing traction on a user's neck as claimed in claim 16 wherein said strap is affixed to a portion of said headpiece first element back side.

18. (New) A self-actuated cervical traction device for performing traction on a user's neck as claimed in claim 17 wherein said strap is affixed to said headpiece in such a manner to place said strap proximate the area between the head and the neck.

19. (New) A self-actuated cervical traction device for performing traction on a user's neck wherein said strap is affixed proximal the lower portion of said headpiece first element said back side.

20. (New) A traction device to be employed by a user comprising:
an adjustable and securable headpiece, said headpiece placed about the lower portion of the neck and secured about the forehead of the user,
a portion of a strap connected to said headpiece, said portion of said strap located intermediate the head and the neck,
said strap further forming a loop,
a cord attached to said loop,
a pulley,
means to secure said pulley to a closed door,
said cord further passing through said pulley, and said cord further being attached to a second loop,
said second loop adapted to receive the feet of the user, whereby
when the patient lies down, and then further extends their legs, said cord is placed in tension, pulling on said headpiece, further pulling on the head and neck in a therapeutic fashion.

21. (New) The traction device as claimed in claim 20 wherein said means to secure said pulley to said closed door comprises a ball affixed to a flexible member, said flexible member further affixed to said pulley, whereby when said flexible member is placed in an open doorway, and a door is closed thereon, said flexible member will be secured intermediate said door and said doorway.

22. (New) A traction device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said headpiece is adapted to have a portion residing on the lowest part of the back of the skull, intermediate the head and the neck, thus, when the user extends their legs, said portion residing on the lowest part of the back of the skull helps stretch the muscles at the back of the neck and allow separation of the bones in the neck, causing a therapeutic effect on the user.

REMARKS

1) Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure due to minor informalities. A substitute Abstract of the Disclosure is provided on page 2 of this Amendment. It is believed that the new Abstract of the Disclosure complies with MPEP 608.01 (b). As such, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner substitute the new Abstract of the Disclosure and withdraw the rejection thereto.

1.1) During preparation of this Amendment, several errors were located in the Drawing Figures. These errors had to do with the numbering of certain elements. Applicant is enclosing the Figures in question with the corrections made in red for Examiner approval. Formal Drawings will be provided when patentable subject matter has been indicated by the Examiner.

1.2) Additionally during preparation of this Amendment, several errors were located in the Specification. Substitute paragraphs are provided in this Amendment correcting the numbering errors so that the numerical designations on the Drawing figures correspond with those in the Specification. Applicant respectfully requests that these paragraphs be substituted. No new matter is being added.

2) Examiner rejected Claims 1-5 and 10 under the provisions of 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Goodley. By action of this Amendment, the claims in question have been

canceled. Therefor the rejection is deemed moot. The new independent claims 13 and 20 have been drafted to more specifically claim the instant invention. It is believed that specific structure is positively recited in the new claims which would not be anticipated by Goodley or

any art of record. Examiner enumerates in paragraphs 2-7 of the First Office Action how Goodley would be applied to the above mentioned claims. Again, in response to these specific claim rejections, the cancellation of the claims in question makes the rejection moot.

3) In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodley '274 in view of Tsujino '565. Once again, since these claims were canceled by action of this Amendment, this rejection is deemed moot. Even if the teachings of the '274 and the '565 patent were combined, they would not teach, show, or anticipate the claimed invention. The new claims more specifically claim the structure of the Applicant's invention. The structure of the Applicant's headpiece, shown in Figures 5 & 6 of the Application and specifically claimed in the new independent claims is not shown in these or any other patent of record.

4) In paragraph 21 of the Office Action, claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodley in view of D'Amico et al. (6,113,563). Again, due to the action of the Amendment, the claims that the rejection is being made against have been canceled and is deemed moot. The new claims more specifically claim the instant invention, including specific structure proximal the pulley for securing the instant invention to the door.

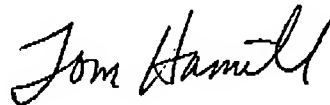
5) Returning to the new independent claim 13, we have specifically drafted the claim to more specifically claim the structure of the instant invention. The dual unit headpiece is not shown in Figure 11 of Goodley. Nor does it show a right or left slot for receiving the securing band. If the Examiner would compare Figure 5 of the instant invention to Figure 11 of Goodley, one

should note that the strap location in the instant invention is lower, as opposed to being approximately in the center as shown in Goodley.

These differences, coupled with other specifically claimed elements in the new claims are not taught by the art of record. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the new claims without prejudice, as it is easier to draft new claims than to amend old claims under the new rules.

Applicant has added new claims which are believed to be allowable over any art of record. As such, the Examiner is asked to allow this case and send it to Issue Branch as soon as possible. If the Applicant's Agent can be of any assistance, please contact him weekdays 9-5 at his office, 703-998-5708.

Respectively,



Tom Hamill

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The following page is a substitute drawing figure which includes Figure 1 and Figure 2. Several numbers were corrected to conform with the specification.

No new matter has been added.